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# **U.S. Advisers Top Targets, Salvadoran Rebels Now Say**

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SAN SALVADOR, Oct. 11 — In one of its strongest threats so far against American military advisers here, the Salvadoran rebel high command said today that the chief goal of a punishing guerrilla raid Thursday on the Salvadoran Army's basic training school was to kill or capture American soldiers serving there.

The rebels said Thursday night that they intended to kill American military advisers around the country. The warning, which has had a chilling effect on Americans here, followed recent statements by the rebels that they consider the Reagan Administration and American military personnel their main enemies.

The guerrillas have killed five American soldiers in the last two years, four of whom were shot dead three months ago at an outdoor cafe.

"From this moment we have decided to make war on the North American interventionists who are directing the war in our homeland," the guerrilla high command said in a radio broadcast Thursday night. "We have decided to take the war to whatever place and in whatever circumstance the North Americans are found."

## **40 Soldiers Die in Raid**

Speaking of the Thursday attack, in which at least 40 Salvadoran soldiers were killed and 70 were wounded, the rebels said, "The principal objective of our victorious operation was the annihilation or capture of the group of 10 North American advisers who commanded the army's military training center."

According to the United States Embassy, there were five American military advisers at the army training center when rebels attacked at 1:30 A.M. None of the Americans were hurt, according to the embassy spokesman, James Williams. Salvadoran Army officials say that 12 Americans are assigned to the base as advisers, but that several do not sleep there at night.

The five American soldiers at the base appear to have been lucky to escape without injury. Guerrillas penetrated the base, devastated two barracks with rockets and fired on several other buildings at point-blank range. It was the most damaging rebel attack

this year.

Mr. Williams said the five American advisers did not join in the fighting, but added, "They were armed and were prepared to defend themselves."

The rebels' declaration of war has forced American officials and their families to take special security measures. The United States Embassy has been so reinforced with concrete walls and a rocket shield that it looks like a giant bomb shelter. American officials seldom go to public places and speak of feeling caged in their homes.

Rebel commanders have said in recent interviews that Americans must be killed because they play a key part in advising the Salvadoran Army and sustaining the Government in its war against the guerrillas.

The decision to shoot Americans appears to be carefully thought out. As recently as a year ago, the rebels seemed to go out of their way not to provoke American displeasure, evidently fearing they might encourage deeper American involvement in the war. Today, the rebels seem to be considerably less timid.

"The Government of Ronald Reagan must realize once and for all that we are not afraid of the intervention of its troops and that it cannot pretend to make war on our people without suffering and paying the consequences," the rebels said Thursday night. "We are decided to vanquish North American intervention in our homeland."

## **Advisers' Role Expands •**

The rebel warning comes at a time when the role of American military advisers has expanded considerably. Although the number of American advisers is technically limited to 55, a series of exceptions to that rule permits well over 100 American soldiers to be in the country at any one time.

Their participation in the war has become more and more prominent. American officers are assigned permanently to the operations, intelligence and planning staffs of the Salvadoran Army high command. American advisers also can now be found in most outlying Salvadoran Army battalion headquarters. They go on army patrols in areas of heavy fighting and carry automatic combat weapons.